

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UR, US

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF MATZOH IN MOSCOW

REF: A. LENINGRAD 701, B. STATE 53256

1. NEW YORK TIMES CARRIED FOLLOWING MARCH 11 REUTERS ITEM REPORTING MORE MATZOH IS AVAILABLE THIS YEAR THAN BEFORE IN MOSCOW.

2. QUOTE MUCH MORE OF THE TRADITIONAL MATZOH, OR UNLEAVENED BREAD, IS BEING BAKED IN MOSCOW FOR THE JEWISH PASSOVER NEXT MONTH, THAN WAS PREPARED LAST YEAR, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE SAYS.

3. QUOTE SOLOMON KLEINMAN, DESCRIBED AS CHAIRMAN OF MOSCOW'S JEWISH COMMUNITY, TOLD THE SOVIET PRESS AGENCY TASS THIS WEEK THAT PREPARATION OF MATZOH HAD ALREADY STARTED AT A SPECIAL BAKERY IN STRICT OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS RULES.

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4. QUOTE 'THIS TIME THE AMOUNT OF MATZOH WILL BE MUCH GREATER THAN LAST YEAR', HE WAS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID, ADDING THAT 264,000 POUNDS WERE BAKED FOR LAST YEAR'S PASSOVER.

5. QUOTE MR. KLEINMAN GAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR THE INCREASE.

6. QUOTE HIS ASSURANCES SEEMED TO BE AIMED AT ALLAYING
ANY CONCERN ABROAD ABOUT SUPPLIES OF MATZOH HERE.

7. QUOTE LAST YEAR NEW POSTAL REGULATIONS INTRODUCED A
BAN ON IMPORTED FLOUR PRODUCTS, AND JEWISH DISSIDENTS
HERE CHARGED THAT THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO STOP MATZOH FROM
BEING SENT BY JEWS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. UNQUOTE VANCE

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